REMARKS

Claim 7 has been amended to change "fluoro-polymerized" to "fluoro-polymerised." No new matter has been added, and entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5 and 7-10 are pending.

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 1-5 are allowed.

Claims 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Carlson (US RE 32,199).

This rejection should be withdrawn because Carlson does not disclose or render obvious the present invention.

Present claim 7 relates to a fluoro-polymerised material comprising a fluoropolymer. The fluoropolymer is one of which polymer terminal groups are $-CF_2H$ and not more than 20 unstable terminal groups (Q) per 10^6 carbon atoms. The fluoro-polymerised material does not substantially contain a metal residue containing an alkali metal element and/or alkaline earth metal element, and the fluoro-polymerised material has a volatile matter index of not higher than 15.

However, the polymer formed by the process disclosed by Carlson has more than 20 unstable terminal groups (Q) per 10^6 carbon atoms, and therefore does not meet the limitation of claim 7 which requires "not more than 20 unstable terminal groups (Q) per 10^6 carbon atoms." See Tables I, II, III and IV of Carlson. Namely, the polymer of Carlson is not sufficiently stabilized.

Therefore, present claims 7-10 are patentable over Carlson.

In view of the above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection based on Carlson are respectfully requested.

Claims 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § "102(b)" [103(a)] as being unpatentable over Buckmaster (US 5,045,605).

This rejection should be withdrawn because Buckmaster does not disclose or render obvious the present invention.

The fluoro-polymerised material of claim 7 can be produced by the production method of claim 1. In the production method of claim 1, a melt-processable fluoropolymer (A) is subjected to melt-kneading in a kneader comprising a stabilization treatment zone. Applicants at page 13, lines 8-15 of the specification disclose:

> The inside pressure in the stabilization treatment zone is preferably increased. By increasing the pressure, it becomes possible to reduce the partial pressure of the high-temperature volatile components to be removed and/or promote the penetration of the optionally introduced oxygen into the composition under melt-kneading and, as a result, increase the efficiency of removal of the high-temperature volatile components.

Since the production method of claim 1 has a high efficiency of removing high-temperature volatile components, the fluoro-polymerised material of claim 7 has a volatile matter index of not higher than 15.

In contrast, although Buckmaster discloses heating a fluoropolymer at a temperature of about 160 to 400°C (col. 6, lines 27-30 and col. 7, lines 1-3), Buckmaster does not teach or suggest that the fluoropolymer is subjected to melt-kneading in a kneader comprising a stabilization treatment zone.

As a result, the fluoropolymer obtained by polymerization as in Examples 4 and 5 of Buckmaster contains low-molecular-weight components generated during polymerization. Even

when heating the fluoropolymer, removal of the low-molecular-weight components is not sufficient. Therefore, the fluoropolymer of Buckmaster has a high volatile matter index expected to be well outside the scope of claim 7 which requires a volatile matter index of not higher than 15.

In view of the above, present claims 7-10 are patentable over Buckmaster. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the "§102(b)" rejection based on Buckmaster are respectfully requested.

Allowance of claims 7-10 is respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Hui Chen Wauters

Hui C. Wauters
Registration No. 57,426

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

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